lasting solution to the problem, a number of steps have been suggested to the State Government to make the administration more effective and achieve a sense of peoples participation and secure their cooperation and support in the fight against terrorism. They have also been asked to take steps to firmly deal with terrorist activities. The changes that may be required in the administrative set-up of the State for the purpose will, however, have to be made by the State Government themselves. All possible assistence is being extended to the State Government as and when required.

Observing 'Decade of the Girl Child'

624. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Heads of Governments of SAARC countries have decided to observe the coming decade as the 'Decade of the Girl Child'; and

(b) if so, what action plan has been prepared by Government for implementing this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) In the recently concluded Summit at Male, the Heads of State or Government decided that in order to maintain focus on the problems of the Girl Child, the years 1991-2000 AD should be observed as the "SAARC DECADE OF THE GIRL CHILD" regarding which action plan is under formulation by the Government.

[illegible] on Communal situation

625. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some news papers have been indulging in communal propaganda, sometimes publishing blatant lies without verification which has sparked off further violence during communal riots in several places; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against such papers for spreading false information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The State Governments and U.Ts. are vested with adequate powers to launch prosecutions against News-papers, periodicals and inflammatory writings preaching communal hatred in the press. Moreover any published material which promotes communal dishormony or feeling of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different communities can also be prescribed. The Central Government has issued instructions, from time to time, to States and UTs for strict enforcement of the legal provisions.

Request by various parties of Punjab to the Central Government

626. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether leaders of various political parties in Punjab have urged the Central Government to take immediate steps to solve the State's continuing problem and ask the Pak Government to stop fuelling militancy in the State;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps contemplated by Government to tackle Punjab situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister held meetings on 7th and 8th December, 1990 in New Delhi with representatives of political parties from Punjab. The meetings were attended

by representatives of Congress(I), Akali Dal (Panthic), A.D. (Pheruman), S.A.D. (Longowal), C.P.I., C.P.I.(M), Janta Dal, B.J.P., B.S.P. and Janta Dal(S); Several suggestions were made by the participants. The Government has been taking appropriate steps for tackling the situation in Punjab from time to time.

Toning up of Civil Administration in Punjab

627. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has directed the Punjab Government to provide the highest priority to toning up of Civil Administration in the State and also to ensure that grievances of the people are looked into;

(b) if so, whether the Punjab Administration has made any changes in the Administrative set up of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what impact it has on the activities of terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The situation in Punjab is constantly under review. As part of the overall strategy to find a lasting solution to the problem, a number of steps have been suggested to the State Government to make the administration effective and secure the cooperation and support of the people in the fight against terrorism. The changes that may be required in the administrative set-up of the State will, however, have to be made by the State Government themselves. It is hoped that on completion of action on various suggestions the State Government would be in a position to effectively deal with the situation.

Army searches in Srinagar

628. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some areas of Srinagar, army has been called to conduct house to house searches for militants;

(b) if so, the number of subversives arrested during the last two months in the Valley;

(c) the details of arms and ammunitions etc., seized from them; and

(d) the further action Government propose to take to apprehend the subversives in the Valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Details are awaited from the State Government.

Seizure of fake driving licences and registration books in Delhi

629. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Crime Branch sleuths have unearthed a gang involved in the preparation of fake driving licences and registration books during the month of November, 1990 at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* of these persons in running their illegal business;

(c) the details of the documents etc., seized and the persons arrested;

(d) whether the involved persons are having any link with the officials of Transport Authority; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what further action Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.